

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously cancelled) A method of producing substantially globular lyogels in which the gel forming components are mixed to produce a lyosol, after which the lyosol, in order to form a lyogel, is introduced into moving medium which flows substantially against the direction to the force of gravity and which does not perceptibly dissolve in the lyosol.

Claim 2. (Previously cancelled) A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the medium is air.

Claim 3. (Previously cancelled) A method according to claim 2, characterised in that the air contains at least one further gaseous medium.

Claim 4. (Previously cancelled) A method according to claim 2 or 3, characterised in that the lyosol is introduced dropwise into the moving air.

Claim 5. (Previously cancelled) A method according to claim 2 or 3, characterised in that the lyosol is sprayed into the moving air.

Claim 6. (Previously cancelled) A method according to at least one of claims 2 to 5, characterised in that the lyosol particles are screened according to size by the air stream which is directed in opposition to the force of gravity.

Claim 7. (Previously cancelled) A method according to at least one of claims 2 to 5, characterised in that the velocity of the air stream diminishes in the direction of flow.

Claim 8. (Previously cancelled) A method according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the lyosol particles are trapped in a layer of water.

Claim 9. (Previously cancelled) A method according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the lyosol is formed from silicic acid and mineral acid.

Claim 10. (Previously cancelled) A method according to at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that the lyosol is formed from a sodium water-glass solution and hydrochloric acid.

Claim 11. (Previously cancelled) Use of substantially globular lyogels, produced according to at least one of the preceding claims, for the production of aerogels.

Claim 12. (Previously cancelled) A method of producing substantially globular aerogels in which a substantially globular lyogel, produced according to at least one of claims 1 to 10, is converted to an aerogel.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method of producing substantially globular lyogels in which the gel forming components are mixed to produce a lyosol, after which the lyosol, in order to form a lyogel, is introduced into a moving medium which flows substantially against the direction of gravity ~~and which does not perceptibly dissolve in the lyosol.~~

Claim 14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the medium is air.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the air contains at least one further gaseous medium.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is introduced dropwise into the moving air.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the

lyosol is sprayed into the moving air.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol particles are screened according to size by the air stream which is directed in opposition to gravity.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the velocity of the air stream diminishes in the direction of flow.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol particles are trapped in a layer of water.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol particles are formed from silicic acid and mineral acid.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol is formed from a sodium water-glass solution and hydrochloric acid.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A process comprising using the substantially globular lyogels produced according to claim 13, to produce aerogels.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) A method of producing substantially globular lyogels in which a substantially globular lyogel, produced according to claim 13, is converted to an aerogel.